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THE CATHOLIC LIBRARY WORLD

Mildred Criss, Interpreter

Modern Lighthouses
of Culture

Latin American Libraries



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Contemporary Catholic Authors: Mildred Criss, Interpreter

By RICHARD J. HURLEY,
Catholic University of America

Those readers of *The Catholic Library World*, who attended the recent Institute on Elementary School Libraries at the Catholic University of America, should remember two things: the reference by two of the speakers to Paul Hazard's book¹ and a vivacious, charming lady known as Mildred Criss. Both of these are related in a very real, yet possibly unsuspected fashion. First let us quote from Hazard's masterpiece:

Yes, children's books keep alive a sense of nationality; but they also keep alive a sense of humanity. They describe their native land lovingly, but they also describe faraway lands where unknown brothers live. They understand the essential quality of their own race; but each of them is a messenger that goes beyond mountains and rivers, beyond the seas, to the very ends of the world in search of new friendships. Every country gives and every country receives—innumerable are the exchanges—and so it comes about that in our first impressionable years the universal republic of childhood is born.

There is much more than this short quotation on the value of children's literature in that interpretation and appreciation of our neighbors, which is so necessary to winning the peace after we win the war. The present generation and the next will shoulder the burden of creating a "brave, new world." They must have the tools for this heroic effort and those tools are books—books about the Poles, Russians, Germans, French, Italians,

Chinese, our neighbors to the South; books revealing many of the lesser known places and peoples of the globe. Tomorrow we must be internationalists, due to the advances in communication and transportation. Distance is no longer reckoned in terms of miles but of minutes. No place on earth, so say the airplane advertisements, is more than sixty hours from the nearest airport. We must know our fellowman. As Catholics we have the additional charge of knowing him as a member of the Mystical Body of Christ—part of the universal church. This thought is also behind the slogan for this year's National Book Week—"United Through Books." On the poster for Book Week is portrayed the children of many countries and races, and one glance at their faces reveals more than tons of paper and floods of ink.

Miss Criss has contributed to the field of juvenile literature a long series of books which well answers the problem raised by Paul Hazard. In particular, she is an interpreter of France and, more lately, certain historical leaders of Spain, Scotland, early America and Brazil. Part of this interpretation is of people and part of confused and often misunderstood periods of history. Insofar as nearly all her subjects are Catholic, she has done a service to us and the general public in presenting a Catholic viewpoint. In all of this work she has consistently sought out the gold and discarded the dross. Not that the

1. Hazard, Paul. *Books, Children and Men*. New York, Horbrook, 1944. 176p.

people or times are idealized, but she has approached them with a constructive viewpoint. The simple things of life have been given their due dignity, the ability to secure a genuine pleasure from little things has been accented, the idea of our being a participant instead of a spectator in this game of life is stressed. These are all lessons from the Old World which we might well learn in the New. The religious quality of the various cultures she has depicted has been given due recognition without sermonizing or affectations. It should be noted that even before her conversion to the Catholic Church, she was writing in the Catholic tradition. In such a fashion does she interpret people as human beings and worthy of understanding and knowledge.

This contribution by Miss Criss can only be appreciated after a survey of her writing. We judge a tree by its fruit and a person by his acts. We must judge this author by her eleven books—always with the hope that she will write more. However, these have been sufficient to warrant her inclusion in the Gallery of Living Catholic Authors. In turn we can only evaluate her books in the light of what we know about the author herself. This can be summed up as follows without the cold informality of a biographical dictionary.

Born at Orange, New Jersey, on October 6, 1890, she was the daughter of Thomas Ball and Helen Huntington Gates. Her father, a Virginian of wide culture and artistic tastes ranging from etching to book-collecting, taught her at home. Later she attended Hollins College, Virginia, and went abroad to study at Geneva and Paris. Here she fell in love with France, her "other" country. In 1910 she married Benjamin F. McGuckin and the next year her son, William Ball Criss, was born. When Wil-

liam was about twelve years old, they went abroad again to live and this indirectly led to her writing about French, Swiss and Italian children. She wanted American children to share his experiences, his understanding and affection for them. This son is now an instructor of ski-troops for the U. S. Army and undoubtedly his European friends are riding their lands of the Hitlerian nightmare. Ten years ago she married Commander George Lewis Catlin, U.S.N.R., and they make their home on one of the broad, shady streets of Chevy Chase, Maryland.

Although she lists her hobbies as gardening, dogs, tennis and figure tennis—really quite indicative of her many abilities and wide tastes—she wrote poetry as a child and the early enthusiasm is still evident in her books. Her first published work was a collection of forty-five poems and called *In the Name of Love*. It is a miscellany of almost as many subjects as poems—mountains, October, sunset, love, religion—and done in blank verse. All of these were grouped in four rather fanciful sections—"In the Twilight," "In the Moonlight," "In the Firelight" and "In the Dark." It was published in 1917 by the Knickerbocker Press, an outlet for various publishing ventures by George H. Putnam. She had the pleasure of pulling him out of the bad Long Island surf which threatened to drown him, and in turn he had the pleasure of issuing her poetry to an unappreciative world. It is now out of print and "curiosa" but we should note it as an indication of the poetical urge which bursts forth on many of her pages. The second venture was a playlet, a fantasy, entitled *Wind Flower*. This appeared in 1922 under the imprint of R. G. Badger of Boston and its only interest to us is that it reveals a highly

imaginative and creative faculty in the author. Like its predecessor, it is out of print, gone and almost forgotten.

Miss Criss hit her writing stride with *Betty Lee in Paris*, the first of five books for children dealing with north central France, Lake Geneva and the Pennine Alps. She had been urged to write for children by an agent of Doubleday, Page whom she had met in Paris and to whom she related her woes about the hard-heartedness of publishers. If no one would publish her poetry, perhaps another type of imaginative writing—fiction, might sell. And why not write for children! Out of this chance meeting came the writer we know so well today. Her first attempt, however, was not *Betty Lee in Paris* but *Malou*, the second of her published books. This "ingenious paradox" came about, she suspects, because her publisher, which was Doubleday, Page, wished to promote only those who wrote consistently. So *Malou* came back with a note saying that her next book would be better. The reader can make up his mind as to this. The second book was answered by a telegram of acceptance which so surprised Miss Criss that she fell down the stairs in her hotel to the consternation of everyone. She had entitled it by that customary, endearing phrase of the French which when translated reads "Little cabbages." In place of this odd title the publisher substituted a worse one. As one can guess, Betty Lee Davis is Miss Criss as a young girl when her father took her abroad to visit Paris. As Miss Criss explains, an idealized little girl, as she was anything but angelic. It has been said that she portrays the Paris of the tourist but we do find a description of its inhabitants which tourists never meet. Biblio, a young French boy, and his aging foster-father, Pierre Leopard, find the

Davis' friends in need. Both of them are brought to America—Pierre to recover his health and Biblio to engage in an artistic career. Another book, *Maeleine's Court on an Island in Paris*, is also laid in that city, more particularly the section behind the Cathedral of Notre Dame and still more interestingly than the picture of Cathedral life, she depicts the parish of Abbe Dimnet. In a note, Miss Criss expresses her appreciation of the Abbe's help. The story finds a French girl and her father, an author, desperately trying to stretch their limited finances with a kind of Micawberish expectation of something better turning up. There is a bicycle trip down the Seine and the Rhone to the Mediterranean and a visit to an Aunt's villa in Normandy to add color and spice. Finally the marionette theatre in which they are interested is bought by a Hollywood producer and they come to this country with an appropriate fairy-tale ending. The format of this book is the finest in any of her works and deserves better attention on the part of librarians. The inclusion of several short biographies for the marionettes led, however, to Miss Criss abandoning straight fiction for fictionized biography. But this is a later story.

Malou, a little Swiss girl, is partly autobiographical as it grew out of a trip made to the Jura Mountains with a Monsieur Plasse and his tubercular daughter—the Marie Louise to whom the book is dedicated. More especially does the next book, published two years later in 1931 and entitled *Martine and Michel*, embody the experiences of the Jura Mountains. *Malou* is an orphan girl who owns a hotel, the Six Cats, which is not making expenses and must be sold. We have several encounters with American tourists and finally an American artist, who is

fondly known as Papa Jacques, buys the hotel and so preserves it for Malou. The mountain climbs, the visit to the Castle of Chillon at Geneva and the picture of this French section of Switzerland will not soon be forgotten.

Martine and Michel is another rich portrait of peasant life, this time of the Jura Mountains. Martine, a little girl, lives with her artist father whose paintings do not sell. They manage to get along by disposing of land and timber until one day a "sale" of a painting sets him on the highroad to success. Michel is a neighbor boy who is their friend in many needs. Particularly graphic are the descriptions of being lost in a blizzard, and the winter sports.

The Red Caravan published in 1934 portrays the French section of Italy, the Aosta Valley which Abbe Dimnet loved so well. Miss Criss and her son had gone to Italy to work up material for a book but the rising tide of Fascism so nauseated her that she sought refuge at Lake Como. Here one evening she met Antonio Scotti, the great Italian dramatic basso and Metropolitan star. He had fallen from the heights; his voice, money and career vanished overnight. His main regret was that he had not trained a promising young girl whom he knew to carry on his work and interest. In such a fashion did the story of Francesca Beridet, her grandfather Ninno and adopted brother Filippo have its origin. In short, the tale is that of the young girl and her grandfather who go singing and playing throughout the valley after the avalanche destroyed their home. Francesca is discovered by an opera singer of Naples and Filippo finds his long-lost mother in the same city. To some extent the hero is a gentle, old hermit, Pierre Labe.

In the foreword to this last book, Abbe Ernest Dimnet aptly describes the charm which Miss Criss embodies in her writing. "Mildred Criss," he writes, "is one of those friends (whom I have advised to travel in the Alps) and *Red Caravan* is partly the offspring of my own curiosity . . . Mildred Criss, her many readers know it, has a gift for seizing at once the characteristics of a local atmosphere and the influence which a place can have on the people who inhabit it. She has sympathy and she has humor; her clear-sightedness is never obscured either by her sympathies or by literary obnubilations. She is preeminently interested in the human souls, and the merest roadside drama ravishes her, so that she never drops into disguised ethnography. She never can be dull. On the other hand, she has an ideal which permeates her books without forcing itself on the reader; she loves nature, the country and its humble inhabitants and animals (which few writers depict so delightfully); she has gayety, optimism and courage. In short, nobody is so well fitted to tell a story to the young and tell it with gusto."

Brave words and thank you, Abbe Dimnet. She does love animals. There are many dogs, a few cats, mules, goats and other animals thronging her stories and a kind of St. Francis understanding of them and other creatures. Perhaps she will do an animal story someday. There is also a preoccupation with art—singing, painting, writing. In a world of material things it is a relief to have something of the spirit. Beyond that one might note the use of orphaned or motherless children, financial difficulties and the ever present threatening Aunts!

To resume the thread of her writing career, she was summoned to meet Mr. Doubleday who informed her that her

last volume—*Madeline's Court*—was the worst ever, except for four pages of biography. Why didn't she devote herself to that field of writing for which she seemed to have particular ability! Taking it to heart, Miss Criss in 1939 produced *Mary Stuart, Young Queen of Scots*. To date, three others have followed and more are likely. These books are fictionalized biographies but accurate for historical content. The subject was suggested by her son and she chose the happy interval the tragic career of this Queen Mary. At the age of five we find Mary being taken to France to be trained in court life and made a pawn in the religious struggles which rent France, Scotland and England. The story ends with her return to Scotland after her marriage to the Dauphin Francis. Out of the confusion of the times, the figure of Mary Stuart emerges clear and beautiful. Miss Criss' version and interpretation may vary from one's favorite historian. As she said, in examining some five hundred volumes to secure background material, she had to eliminate the nationalists and the bigots—and what does one have left!

In 1941 another youthful picture was sculptured out of an equally troublous and confused time, that of *Isabella*, the Catholic. She wished to provide something more for the children of America than the prosaic statement of a queen who sold her jewels to speed Christopher Columbus on his epochal voyage. In the tangle of intrigue of Moor, Jew and Christian, of Spain and Portugal, of Castile and Aragon, Isabella and her brother Fernando shine with the fervor of early Christian martyrs. During the writing, Miss Criss really lost her heart to young and chivalrous Fernando. We will, also. Like its predecessor, it is rich in detail of the times and customs and reflects much

careful research. And what harm if, as Allan Nevins comments, "she rather idealizes the queen"!

In order to make young Americans conscious of their own heritage, in 1943 she essayed a picture of young Pocahontas. We see the Indian princess in the village of her powerful warrior father, Powhatan; the coming of the white men to Jamestown; the thread-bare story of her rescue of Captain John Smith; ending with her betrothal to John Rolfe. As with *Mary Stuart* and *Isabella*, she gives us the happiest periods of their tragic lives. Again we have a sense of "belonging", so realistic is the word picturization. Some reviewers have objected to the jaw-breaking Indian names but as Miss Criss comments, "What can you do about it?" This year *Dom Pedro of Brazil* brings South America to our doorstep in the form of a leader who exemplified the best of mankind. During a stormy, story period of Brazil, with revolts inside the country and wars along its boundaries, he carried out an enlightened and progressive program. His life is a lesson for those who seek only material gains—those things which the heathen seek.

Miss Criss joins the ranks of Olcott, Adams, Dodge, VanStockum, Perkins and many other writers for children who have interpreted other lands for us. Long may she write!

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Modern Lighthouses of Culture

By CARLOS E. CASTANEDA, PH.D.,¹
University of Texas, Austin, Texas

Sumner Wells recently warned that our era of good will and close cooperation with Latin America was beginning to show signs of strain, that as we win the war we are beginning to lose, if not the peace, certainly much of the good will engendered by our good neighbor policy. Stormy days lie ahead. The ship of state will need guidance, a clear sky, and a bright star to steer her by. Material and political considerations may, and probably will, affect our general policy towards Latin America, but as long as the cultural ties are enriched and strengthened, there is little danger of a serious misunderstanding between the peoples of the Americas.

The good neighbor policy in regard to Latin America has found expression in the political, economic, military, and cultural fields. The great value of the latter has been fully realized by our statesmen and our government. A Division of Cultural Relations has been established in our State Department; the Coordinator's Office has given much attention to the movement for intellectual interchange among the leaders of the two Americas; the Library of Congress has established a Hispanic Division; institutes of Latin America Studies and Inter-

American Affairs have been established in our leading Universities; the American Library Association has a Committee on Cooperation with Latin America; and the leading educational associations in the country have set up committees to evaluate, study, and promote the cultural understanding of the two Americas.

In this vast movement for intellectual interchange and cultural understanding, no agency is more important and far reaching in its permanent effect in building indestructible ties than the library. In the stormy days that lie ahead, the library will be the modern lighthouse of culture, pointing the way to the sources, the fountain heads of true values in our American civilization. Here are gathered all kinds of printed materials in order that they may be available to all those who seek information and light. The might of Rome conquered Greece, but the Greek mind conquered the Romans. The libraries in the Americas will be the true arsenals of Democracy, good will, and understanding in the post-war era. Latin America does not know us any more than we know Latin America. The Library will make us know each other more intimately as the years pass.

The Government of the United States has fully recognized the value and significance of the library as a potent agent in bringing about a lasting understanding

1. Dr. Carlos E. Castañeda has been in charge of the Latin-American Library of the University of Texas at Austin since 1927 and served for two years on the American Library Association's Committee on cooperation with Latin-America.

between the peoples of the Americas. It has undertaken, therefore, to establish North American libraries in the principal cultural centers of Latin America. The program was initiated when on July 23, 1941, the establishment of a North American Library in Mexico City was authorized and the American Library Association was asked to cooperate in the enterprise. Not far from the famous Paseo de la Reforma and near to the hotel of the same name, an old residence was remodeled to house the new library, which was inaugurated with proper ceremonies on April 13, 1942, as the Biblioteca Benjamin Franklin. The writer was instrumental in choosing the name. The President of Mexico and the Ambassador of the United States spoke briefly at the inauguration.

The new library was placed under the able direction of Harry M. Lydenberg, former director of the New York Public Library. It has already grown to more than 5,000 volumes. Its staff consists of a small group of Spanish-speaking Americans and Mexicans, most of whom have had training in the library schools of the United States. The Benjamin Franklin Library has become a center for dissemination of North American culture. In addition to rendering the customary public library services, it has become the center for exhibitions of North American art, printing, and music. Its conference rooms are being widely used by discussion groups; here English classes are being given to those interested in learning the language, and public lectures are held.

There is one other important service which this library in Mexico City renders. For years scholars and students in Latin America have encountered considerable difficulty in consulting source ma-

terials in North American libraries. With no responsible institution through which to request an inter-library loan, the Latin-American student has been deprived of the benefits of our inter-library loan service. Since the inauguration of the Biblioteca Benjamin Franklin, a channel has been established for this valuable and important interchange between North American libraries and research workers in Mexico.

The Biblioteca Benjamin Franklin has become a cultural link that will prove of great value to the American scholar as well. There are important libraries in Mexico with rich stores of indispensable source materials whose contents are unknown. The Rockefeller Foundation has made a grant to the Benjamin Franklin Library for the development of a union catalogue of research materials in Mexican libraries. The project is under the direction of the distinguished professor of Library Science of the University of Michigan, Rudolf H. Gjelsness. When completed this project will be of incalculable value to American scholars. It is impossible to estimate the vast influence which this North American library in Mexico will exercise through the years in acquainting the intellectual leaders of Mexico with the thought of our best minds and in making known and accessible to North American scholars the unexplored sources in Mexico.

A few months later, on November 26, 1942, another North American Library was opened with appropriate ceremonies in the city of Managua, Nicaragua, dedicated to the memory of the great and incomparable Central American poet, Rubén Darío. It is to be known officially as the Biblioteca Americana. It is under the direction of Dr. Rodolfo Rivera, a former member of the faculty

of Duke University, who identified himself with the movement for library co-operation with Latin America as the Executive Secretary of the American Library Association's Committee. The choice of an American citizen of Latin-American extraction was a happy one and will contribute to the popularity of the library. As in the case of the Benjamin Franklin Library, the Biblioteca Americana has become a center for film programs, exhibitions, discussion groups, concerts, broadcasts and lectures. So significant has been the work of its director in promoting better relations and understanding that in March, 1943, he was made assistant to the United States Minister to Nicaragua. The Biblioteca Americana has become another modern lighthouse pointing the way to sound and lasting understanding between the peoples of the Americas through intellectual interchange.

A third North American library to be established in the cultured city of Montevideo, capital of small but most progressive Uruguay, was also authorized in March, 1942. Dr. Arthur E. Gropp, former Librarian of the Middle America Institute of Tulane University, went to Montevideo in the winter of 1942 to work out plans for the new library, which is to be called Biblioteca Artigas-Washington in memory of the great Latin American patriot of the Banda Oriental and the father of our country. Dr. Gropp is well known to Latin American and North American scholars for his survey of source materials in Central America which he made a couple of years ago and which was published by the Institute of Middle America Research. While waiting to secure permanent quarters for his library, which has already acquired over 1500 volumes, Dr. Gropp has or-

ganized a class on library science in Montevideo with fifty-five Uruguayan librarians selected from more than two hundred applicants. In acquainting Latin American librarians with the progress made in library science in this country, the North American libraries in Latin America are rendering a great service that will have a far-reaching effect on intellectual interchange and cultural relations between the Americas.

Other North American libraries will be established in due time in the various cultural centers of Latin America. Each one will become a modern lighthouse on the unchartered path to inter-American intellectual interchange and cultural understanding that alone can lead to permanent peace and cooperation in the Americas.

Until very recently the vast output of books by North American presses reached Latin America as a mere trickle. The high cost of North American printing, added to the rate of exchange of the American dollar made their purchase prohibitive. The new libraries established will make available to scholars and students in the more important cultural centers of Latin America a wider selection of books in English than ever before. But Latin America has many publicly supported libraries of many kinds which desire, and should have, more books by North American authors.

The American Library Association is cognizant of the need for a wider distribution of United States books to Latin America. With the cooperation of public-minded individuals and associations, it has set up a project with quarters in the Library of Congress, known as "Books for Latin America." Through this project some five hundred school, public,

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Manoel De Oliveira Lima, His Life and His Library

By MANOEL DE SILVEIRA SOARES CARDOSO, PH.D.,
Curator of the Lima Library, Catholic University of America

Last February saw the passing of another anniversary of the Lima Library, and the date this year, more significant than usual, did not pass unnoticed. Just twenty years ago, in the presence of high university officials, diplomats and other distinguished guests, a valuable collection of some 40,000 books and manuscripts, the gift to American scholarship of two widely-known and respected Brazilians, Dr. and Mrs. Manoel de Oliveira Lima, was officially inaugurated in McMahon Hall on the campus of The Catholic University of America.

Except for the constant addition, largely through the kindness of friends, of books and periodicals from all over Ibero-America, the Iberian Peninsula, and the Portuguese colonies, the Lima Library has remained since then substantially as it was on the day of its formal opening—a rich collection unrivalled in many respects for the study of the history and literature of the whole Iberian world, but particularly of Brazil and Portugal. To be sure, with the construction of the imposing new library building at the University, through the munificence of the late John K. Mullen of Denver, appropriate quarters were there provided for the Oliveira Lima collections; and they are today housed in five large rooms which the donor himself selected. The unsuspecting visitor to the University will not easily find the Lima Library,

because it is located in one of the dimly-lighted, monastic-like corners of the basement; but Dr. Lima's wish was that his library, even in its new home, should remain pre-eminently as a research collection, and he felt that research is best conducted without interruptions, in a quiet place.

With the course of time, however, the silence which Dr. Lima was wise enough to protect, has been more and more broken; and an increasing number of scholars have found their way to the library's study rooms. It could not, of course, have been otherwise, as the donor clearly foresaw. He himself did not live to see the day when Washington would become in effect the unofficial capital of the New World, but his decision to give his library to an institution in the District of Columbia is a striking evidence of his clairvoyance. During the past few years, thanks to the growing interest in this country in Ibero-America, and to the many scholars from the other American republics who have visited Washington, the library's fine facilities have been used by a greater group of scholars than ever before. There is no reason to suppose that in the future the Lima Library will not maintain its present position as a notable center in the United States for the pursuit of Ibero-American studies.

II

It is not generally known that Dr. Lima entertained the idea of giving his valuable collection of books to the University as early as 1912, when he invited the rector, Bishop Shahan, who was then contemplating a European tour, to visit him in London; yet it was not until 1916, in a letter to the Bishop, that Dr. Lima made a definite offer to donate his library to the University. "Our idea," Dr. Lima wrote, referring both to himself and to his wife, "is also to endow by our will the University with a Chair of Portuguese language and literature." The donation, he added, "meets an old wish of ours, who are both Roman Catholics, and anxious not only to see our faith prosper in America, but to see the Catholic University of Washington raised to an international center of learning in the New World."

Bishop Shahan submitted Dr. Lima's generous proposal to the Board of Trustees at its meeting of November 15, 1916. Three days later the rector wrote to Dr. Lima: "Our Trustees accepted with much gratitude your generous and noble proposition . . ." The Bishop continued:

Truly, it is unnecessary for me to say how profoundly I am touched by your munificent action, in every way befitting your noble character and your beneficent career, as they have long been known to the world and are now revealed to us of the Catholic University of America. It is just and proper, however, that in its name I should express our undying gratitude for your generous proposition, and our great admiration for the truly Catholic and broad spirit in which you have conceived this unique foundation. There can be no doubt that you have laid solidly the cornerstone of a great foundation, whose results, morally and spiritually, as well as intellectually and economically, will continue to grow through the ages.

The plans of the donor, who was thus assured of the enthusiasm and good will

of Bishop Shahan, were ambitious. He wrote to the Bishop:

My idea is to make of my library, increasing as it will go on all the time, a bond of American union; and I dream of starting a Review, a purely intellectual one, for scholars, part in English, part in Spanish, and part in Portuguese, to promote a better knowledge. Your dream of a South American Institute will become a reality sooner than you may expect I dare say.

The first World War, however, by making the removal of the library from storage in Belgium, England, and Brazil unwise, plus Dr. Lima's many activities both in the United States and abroad, delayed considerably the installation of the library on the campus; and it was not until February, 1924, that the collection was finally opened to the public. Symbolically, the opening day was also the date of the celebration of the fourth centennial of the birth of Luiz de Camoes, the Prince of Portuguese Poets. On that occasion, in the presence of distinguished guests, including numerous members of the diplomatic corps, Dr. Lima said that

the opening of this Library, with its General Section and Section specially Ibero-American, and more specifically Portuguese-Brazilian, will not only add greatly to the material offered to the students of this country for a scientific knowledge of our countries, but will surely contribute to stimulate such studies and become in this way the best foundation of the Ibero-American Institute which Right Reverend Bishop Shahan was able to foresee. My intention fully corresponds to his idea and explains my donation.

Bishop Shahan, in accepting formally the library on behalf of the University, remarked that he looked forward to the time when the library and the proposed Ibero-American Institute might take more definite shape. Dr. and Mrs. Lima, the rector said,

believe that his Library can and ought (to) become a clearing-house for the best thought of the New World, North and South. New books, the best reviews, the representative press, will enrich these shelves from year to year, until the dream of a separate building becomes a reality, and the Ibero-American Institute acquire that additional guarantee of permanency and efficiency.

During the next and last four years of his life, Dr. Lima devoted himself to the rector's farsighted idea of founding an Ibero-American Institute at the University. Dr. Lima was aware that no serious work could be done in Washington toward the development of inter-American understanding on the intellectual level on which he envisaged it, unless adequate library facilities were available, at least for the major countries of Ibero-America. He therefore attempted to interest South American friends in the project, with the hope that they too might give their private libraries to the University. Sr. Ernesto Quesada of Argentina, owner of a library of 50,000 volumes, was attracted to the plan, and informally offered to give his books to the University in return for an annuity, living accommodations on the campus, and certain guarantees for his collection. Bishop Shahan was very favorable to Sr. Quesada's proposal, and it was in fact accepted by the Board of Trustees. But these arrangements, so auspiciously begun, were never concluded. On the other hand, the institute that both Dr. Lima and Bishop Shahan envisaged, was in 1939, after a number of *contretemps*, finally established at the University under the name of The Institute of Ibero-American Studies.

III

Manoel de Oliveira Lima, the tall, moustached, and rotund diplomat, whose large eyes, lively countenance, and

fine aristocratic head, almost too small for his enormous body, Carlos Chambelland has so well pictured, belonged to that coterie of brilliant men whose activities, both at home and abroad, contributed significantly to the conduct of Brazil's foreign relations and to the prestige of Brazilian scholarship. Born in Recife, Pernambuco, in 1867—on the day of the birth of Our Lord, Whose name his family therefore gave him—he was sent to Lisbon for his higher education, and there, during his formative years, came under the influence of the leading figures of Portuguese intellectual life. Shortly after the proclamation of the Republic in Brazil in 1889, Oliveira Lima entered the diplomatic service of his country. He was sent in various capacities to Lisbon; to Berlin; to Washington, where he served under Salvador de Mendonça, the Republic's first minister to the United States; to London, where he assumed control of the legation following the unexpected death of Joao Artur de Sousa Correia; to Tokyo; to Caracas, where he negotiated an important boundary treaty with Venezuela and secured some interesting relics of Simón Bolívar and his family; to Stockholm; and to Brussels. His longest and most fruitful diplomatic assignment was as minister plenipotentiary to Belgium, a position he held until his retirement from the diplomatic corps in 1914.

His good fortune in spending many years of his life in several of the world's great capitals gave him the splendid opportunity of indulging that weakness of his, which he acquired very early in life, of acquiring books, manuscripts, and objects of art. He was not fortunate enough to have children, and the love that he might have showered upon them,

he lavishly spent in his veritable mania of the bibliophile.¹ In this work he was actively supported by his wife, Dona Flora de Cavalcanti de Albuquerque, member of one of the proudest families of North Brazil and a woman of extraordinary intelligence and charm. Oliveira Lima died in Washington in 1928, but Dona Flora, the last of the Brazilian *grandes dames* of her generation, lived on until 1940. For years her apartment on Park Road, opposite the Church of the Sacred Heart, filled with mementoes of a lifetime of cultivated living, was a mecca for Brazilians and other Ibero-Americans in Washington. Here, in the quiet of her home, she kept alive the memory of her distinguished husband, and devoted part of her time to the Library with which both had endowed the Catholic University.

Oliveira Lima must be remembered also as a scholar. He belonged, as the late Max Fleiss well put it, to that select group of Brazilian historians which included Francisco Adolfo de Varnhagen and Capistrano de Abreu. Perhaps the greatest work from his pen is the still standard history of King John VI of Portugal in Brazil, *Dom Joao VI no Brasil*, a two-volume study which appeared in Rio at the beginning of the century. Over a period of years a long series of books and articles were pub-

lished under his name. He wrote on the history of his native state of Pernambuco; on his travels in the United States, Argentina, and Japan; on Brazilian diplomatic history; on Pan Americanism; on the Portuguese language; on Brazilian literature; on Portuguese nineteenth-century history. His *Formation historique de la nationalité brésilienne*, a series of lectures delivered at the Sorbonne, remains one of the most important single works of historical synthesis on Brazil; while another series of lectures, delivered at Stanford University at the invitation of President J. C. Branner, *The Evolution of Brazil compared with that of Spanish and Anglo-Saxon America*, is filled with a deep grasp of Ibero-American history which succeeding generations of students have continued to appreciate.

In addition to his lectures at the Sorbonne and at Stanford, he taught for a time at Harvard, spoke at the University of Lisbon and at other European institutions of higher learning, and visited the major universities of the United States in an intellectual tour that is still remembered. Member of the Brazilian Academy of Letters, of the Brazilian Historical and Geographical Institute, of the Lisbon Academy of Sciences, of the Royal Spanish Academy, and of many other learned societies in England, on the continent, and in the New World, Oliveira Lima truly was, as the Swedish professor Göran Bjorkman so well expressed it, the intellectual ambassador of Brazil to the Old World and the New.

Toward the end of his life, feeling an attraction for the United States, where some of his happiest days were spent, and clairvoyant enough to sense the future position of Washington in the

(Concluded on page 56)

1. A complete picture of his acquisitions may be secured only by visiting the Lima Library, here thousands upon thousands of volumes are stacked as a testimony to his singularly intelligent penchant for books; yet a fair sampling of what he did, and an understanding of the care with which he collected, is evident enough from the Library's two publications, *Bibliographical and historical description of the Rarest Books in the Oliveira Lima collection at the Catholic University of America* Washington, D. C., 1927, by Ruth E. V. Holmes, and "A guide to the manuscripts in the Lima Library, The Catholic University of America, Washington, D. C.", published by M. da S. S. Cardozo in the sixth number of the *Handbook of Latin American Studies* (Cambridge, Mass., 1941).

The Hispanic Foundation of the Library of Congress

By MARGARET J. BATES,
Former Assistant of the Hispanic Foundation

In 1927 a great Hispanist and Mecenas of Hispanic culture, Mr. Archer M. Huntington, donated to the Library of Congress \$100,000, providing for the purchase, within ten years of publication, of books relating to Hispanic arts, crafts, literature and history. This original endowment was followed in 1928 by another to provide an honorarium for a Consultant in Hispanic Literature. Dr. David Rubio, Head of the Department of Romance Languages of the Catholic University of America, was appointed to fill this chair in 1931.

Today, of course, due to the Good Neighbor Policy, we are well aware of the people to the South of us. We offer courses in Hispanic literature and history in our High Schools, Colleges, and Universities, and in many cases also in Elementary Schools. But we must remember that in 1931 there were very few people in the United States who had any notion of Hispanic culture. Dr. Rubio, however, was singularly well equipped for this position. He had studied both in Spain and South America receiving the degree of Doctor of Philosophy both from the University of San Marcos in Lima, the oldest University on the continent of South America, and the University of Madrid. His work in Hispanic literature and the many books he had written were instrumental in his

being selected as a member of the Royal Spanish Academy of Letters.

The Librarian of Congress, Herbert Putnam, was also eager to build up a good collection of books on Hispanic subjects. He believed that in the United States, due to its historical and geographic location, Hispanic culture should be second to none in importance and extension.

When Dr. Rubio surveyed the collection of the Library of Congress for the first time he found to his amazement that there was not one book by the most famous Hispanic American poet, the Nicaraguan, Rubén Darío. By 1931, however, \$12,000 had accumulated with which this situation was remedied. Today there must be at least one hundred items just *about* the works of Rubén Darío. Since the creation of the Huntington fund the Library has bought each year two thousand books published in the Hispanic world. The limitation of this fund, that the books must be purchased within ten years after the date of publication, has served to encourage young authors just entering upon their careers by making their works known abroad.

The author, in her travels through South America where she was sent by the Library of Congress to organize libraries, has heard nothing but the highest praise

of the collections and service of the Library of Congress. Dr. Ramiro Guerra, the foremost Cuban historian, did most of his research for his History of Cuba in the Library of Congress and in an article published in the influential newspaper of Havana, *Diario de la Marina*, he expressed the opinion that the history of Cuba after 1860 can not be written without consulting the material on the subject in the Library of Congress. Dr. Juvenal Hernández, Rector of the National University of Santiago de Chile, after examining the catalog of the Library's entries on Chile exclaimed: "In the National Library of Chile, in many fields we do not have as much as you have here." This is the usual refrain we hear from visitors from Hispanic America. They marvel, too, at the ease with which the reader finds the book he is seeking. Those libraries in Hispanic America which have splendid collections are usually poorly organized so that the task of finding the book is difficult, sometimes impossible.

These South American visitors admired not only the quantity but also the quality of the book selection. They appreciated the collection much more than the American who has no idea of the difficulties encountered in building up a first rate Hispanic section. In the first place, only a few of the leading countries publish national bibliographies; the publications of all the other countries have to be checked through newspapers, magazines, and bibliographies appended to books. Even when we are fortunate to have a national bibliography, there are no tools whatsoever to aid in our knowing what is worthwhile purchasing. The only thing to do is read the books and become acquainted with each author.

Then, there is still the problem of acquiring the book once the decision to buy it is reached. Many authors in Hispanic America publish their work at their own expense, the editions are small, books are quickly out of print and therefore any delay in ordering books is fatal. It is for this reason that the Foundation has adopted the policy of requesting writers to send copies of their writings to the Library; a special desk is maintained simply to acknowledge material received by gift. Since much of the current literature appears in articles and monographs submerged in magazines and newspapers, the authors are urged to send clippings also.

This enumeration of a few of the difficulties encountered in book selection gives the reader an idea of the task that faced Dr. Rubio in his "pioneering" days. A great deal of correspondence had to be carried on with authors, book dealers and cultural centers of Hispanic America and there was also the necessity of constant trips to Spain, Portugal and Hispanic America, in order to solve these problems. And there was always a constant stream of students and research workers whom Dr. Rubio, as Consultant, had to help.

Soon the necessity of a fitting place for students to consult books and to confer with the Consultant arose. The collection had become so important that an administrative staff was needed. The generous hand of Mr. Huntington again came to the aid of the Library in the creation of the Hispanic Foundation whose purpose it is to promote the study of the Peninsula and Hispanic America in the United States. On July 1, 1939, the Hispanic Room, which many consider one of the most elegant rooms of

Washington, was formally opened. Dr. Rubio was appointed Curator of the Hispanic Collections, Dr. Lewis Hanke, Director, and Dr. Robert C. Smith, Sub-Director.

The Pamphlet, *The Hispanic Foundation in the Library of Congress*, published for the opening of the Foundation, describes the room:

On entering the Hispanic room the visitor beholds, in an atmosphere of cloistered quiet and serenity, an interior whose details carry out faithfully the style of the Siglo de Oro, the Sixteenth and Seventeenth century taste of Spain and Portugal. First one enters a vaulted vestibule of ample proportions, which allows the public to see the reading room without disturbing the reader, lighted by a splendid silver chandelier which is an original example of the mudéjar style of Toledo. In this room, against a background of armorial tapestries and rich furniture, special exhibitions are held. Rare maps, important documents and autographs, early printed books and pamphlets are arranged there in special showings to commemorate the anniversary of some event of great importance, such as the present exhibition marking the quattrocentenary of Hernando de Soto's expedition from Cuba which culminated in the discovery of the Mississippi River.

From the vestibule the visitor enters the main reading room, a gallery of some 130 feet in length. A lofty frieze records the names of great historic and literary figures of the different Hispanic countries. There Cervantes stands besides Camões, Magellan beside Columbus. Loyola, El Cid, Lope de Vega, Calderón and Bolívar are also there.¹

In Latin American letters such great figures as Gonçalves Dias, Bello, M. A. Caro, Sarmiento, Icazbalceta, Ricardo Palma, Rodó, Medina, Montalvo, Heredia and Dario are represented. Immediately adjacent to this room are some 75,000 Hispanic volumes which can be consulted there and in the wood-panelled

alcoves about it, in an atmosphere of beauty such as a seventeenth century monastic library might originally have presented.²

The first aim of the Hispanic Foundation is:

"To build a comprehensive collection of materials on all aspects of Hispanic Culture, carefully organized for reference purposes and made available to investigators of all nations for consultation under the freest possible conditions."

secondly:

"To prepare a great Hispanic catalog which will include all cards on (a) all Hispanic books in the library; (b) all pertinent material in other divisions of the library, such as Music, Documents, Manuscripts and Fine Arts; (c) significant articles in periodicals, from 1800 on; and (d) all Hispanic books in other Washington libraries."

thirdly:

"To compile basic reference tools on Hispanic American books and magazines." Best known among this type of publication is the *Handbook of Latin-American Studies* edited at the Foundation. It is an annual publication listing with critical and informative notes, the outstanding books and articles relating to Latin America which have appeared throughout the world in the course of each year. The fourth aim is to "build a photographic archive of Hispanic Fine and Folk Arts." This latest project is under the able direction of Dr. Robert C. Smith.

Were it not for the far sighted pioneers of the Hispanic collection it would be impossible to carry on adequate investigations on Hispanic subjects in the United States.

1. Unfortunately "the atmosphere of cloistered quiet and serenity" has been broken recently by the murals of the Brazilian painter, Portinari, with scenes from the Brazilian wilderness. And the names of all these great men have been erased from the vestibule to make way for the cubistic representations of the "common man".

2. *The Hispanic Foundation in the Library of Congress*. United States Government Printing Office, 1939, pp. 4-5.

The Catholic Librarian and Inter-American Relations

By REVEREND E. T. SANDOVAL, S.J., Librarian,
Regis College, Denver Colorado

The lively and ever increasing interest in Latin America, so enthusiastically manifested all around us, shows clearly that the supreme importance of Inter-American relations has at last impressed itself forcibly upon the masses in both continents. This mutual impact, modest and unobtrusive as it has been, is producing very gratifying results. Friendship with the Hispanic American republics had appealing attractions even before the Good Neighbor Policy was proclaimed, December 28, 1933. Since then, earnest, sincere and practical efforts have been made to cement mutual understanding as the basis for interchange of cultures, the very foundation of enduring Inter-American solidarity. These relations will play a role of primary importance during the period of readjustment after the war, and when the world has regained its equilibrium and the era of peace has been fully established, these relations will have for their luminous goal perfect harmony among the nations of the hemisphere, through the mutually beneficial intercourse of cultural influences.

In this interchange of cultures the Catholic librarian has an elevated and exalted task, it may even be called a mission, that he is unusually well equipped to carry out by reason of his faith, his convictions and his training, an effort to bring light and afford guidance and direction

in world affairs. He is to pave the way for mutual understanding among the people of the Americas.

This endeavor is twofold by reason of the diversity of views, the mentality and general culture of the nations he is to endeavor to bring to mutual understanding. On the one hand, he is to help English-speaking Americans: a) to understand the point of view of Latin Americans, b) to grasp the essence of their culture which unfortunately is so little appreciated, c) to study their ideals and ways of life, so different from those of Americans of the North, and finally, d) to understand why Latin Americans lay so much stress on their religion. On the other hand, he is to help Latin Americans do away with those prejudices even yet to be found where no systematic effort has been made to combat them. For this particular phase of his task, he will be particularly well prepared, if he has mastered the Romance languages and has taken a living interest in history.

In order to appreciate the Latin American point of view in regard to the United States, an adequate and sympathetic acquaintance with the history of the various nations will be of great help. The study of American history in its wider horizons with its allied fields, its interpretation, and its present-day developments gives

us the key to the correct understanding of the nations of both continents. It must be, however, American history in its "wider horizons,"¹ extending to all the nations of the hemisphere. Just as European history is not adequate and complete if confined to the study of Spain, France or Germany, so American history properly so-called should study not the United States alone, but America in its completeness with the impact and influence of each nation upon the other. Such a study will explain why it is that even today some Latin Americans look upon the United States with fear and distrust, in spite of the Good Neighbor policy and its efforts towards unification. There is as yet distrust and fear of the Colossus of the North. Historical explanations and sympathetic considerateness for the reaction on the part of Latin Americans towards some of the events will help considerably. To study and appreciate culture in Latin America is perhaps one of the most practical and at the same time one of the most sacred duties of the Catholic librarian. This culture is the rich inheritance Catholic Spain handed down as a reflex of the pageantry of the golden ages of splendor and glory; that splendor reached its zenith soon after the colonization of America had been begun. This culture has invariably looked to Europe, Spain, Portugal, France, Germany and Italy, and differs widely from the culture of Anglo-Saxon origin. The wealth of Potosi that contributed so much to the glory of Spain, is an emblem. In literature, in the humanities, there are veritable treasures buried in university and conventual libraries which are of inestimable value.

Closely connected with the culture of Latin Americans, the librarian will find it of absorbing interest to study the ideals and ways of life of the people. To trace the elements that constitute those ideals and to see the influence of the missionaries on the aborigines is a profitable and most absorbing study. In the first place Latin American ideals are not utilitarian nor materialistic. Happiness for them does not consist in success in things material. Though practical and sufficiently keen in business, their aims and ideals tend towards a plane far above that of pure material advantages. The spirit of the people can be summed up in one word, *Hispanidad* which has no equivalent in English. It means a happy and appealing combination of the elevated characteristics of the Hispanic hidalgo, his generosity, unselfishness, self-sacrifice, ingrafted on the solid, sturdy and deeply humble parent stem of the aboriginal racial stock. This is their interior culture, an inner refinement of the soul. It comprises the delicate courtesy so characteristic of the well educated Latin Americans and is very frequently found even among the poorer classes. It bespeaks a delicate refinement, born of thoughtful considerateness, ennobled by intelligent self-discipline taught in childhood and brought to a perfection that approaches a fine art. This refinement is based on a deep-rooted sensitiveness, which for persons who do not fully understand its charming nature, may seem to be excessive. It is based on a permeating and deep-seated personal self respect, a chivalrous sense of the high value of human personality.

The Catholic librarian, a leader in Catholic action, will be able to understand and make clear to others why Latin Americans place so much importance on their religion. To many excellent

1. Herbert E. Bolton, *Wider Horizons of American History*. Appleton-Century, 1939.

North Americans, religion is an accomplishment, placed on the same footing with any other desirable accomplishment, like eloquence or the gift for languages. For Latin Americans, religion is something much deeper than an accomplishment. Religion is their very life. It has played a very important part in their politics and their governments, has entwined itself in the vicissitudes of their history, permeates and gives significance to their social activities, and brings light, courage and the sweetest consolations to their domestic life. The history, the ideals, the spirit of Latin American people will be better understood if the import of their religion is kept in mind. In this particular is the Catholic librarian of inestimable assistance in promoting mutual understanding.

The second field of his mission is even more important and much more difficult. He is to work on the Latin American mentality and endeavor to diminish and ultimately to do away with the prejudices and misconceptions that frequently hinder the Good Neighbor Policy from producing the best results. He is to help foster a favorable regard towards the neighbors of the North, appreciate their spirit, understand the sincerity of their good intentions and second the earnest desires of cementing friendship and being of service and protection. The process in this field is much more complicated, and will require much tact and intelligent and persistent efforts.

In the first place, he is to drive home by all the means at his command, the utter futility of fear and of distrust. Even if historical events seem to justify this attitude, a complete change of policy has been brought about, proving in an unanswerable manner that now there is

absolutely no reason for fear or distrust. In the course of history, few if any nations have had the humble uprightness to acknowledge even implicitly that they have been in the wrong and that now they are willing to change their attitude and improve their procedure. The sincerity of this assurance of friendship has been backed by sacrifices too costly, unless there is unquestionable earnestness in carrying out the pledges of the Good Neighbor Policy.

A second task to be brought home to the Latin American public is that the culture of the United States is not exclusively utilitarian and confined to the useful arts. Though it is true that the mechanical arts have reached a high degree of excellence, yet the humanities, literature, arts and historical research have by no means been neglected. A glance at the Silver Age of American literature that flowered in New England will unfold a great deal that will counteract a preconceived notion that has gained some ground.

A third task of the Catholic librarian is to impress upon his patrons a deeper appreciation of the American way of life, its liberties and privileges, its democratic atmosphere, its high standard of living. The proper appreciation of this American way of life should result on the part of Latin Americans in an endeavor to raise their own standard of living and bring to their nations much more of the atmosphere of democracy.

The main arrowhead of the activities of the Catholic librarian points to his duty of impressing upon Latin Americans the fact that Catholicism, though in the minority in this country, since out of the total population of 131,669,275 in 1942, only 22,293,101 are Catholic, it offers a

perfect counterpart to the Catholicism flourishing in Hispanic America. Perhaps the most baneful of Latin American prejudices, consequent on lamentable though blameless misinformation, is that Americanism and Protestantism are identical. To many, the public school system is the only system in existence. Some do not realize that there is a total of 10,459 Catholic schools, colleges and universities in the United States, with 97,459 teachers and a total enrollment of 2,584,461. Primary as well as higher education in this country is highly esteemed even by those not of our faith. Catholicity even though in the minority is more of a militant and stalwart type than their own, precisely because rubbing elbows with so many non-Catholics they must be more on their guard and on the defensive than if they lived among those of their own faith.

It is a matter of joy and of encouragement to see what practical and truly progressive steps have already been taken to aid librarians carry out their task. To help them realize their strategic status, in almost all schools of librarianship, lectures and the benefit of Inter-American workshops have been made available. Through the instrumentality of the American Library Association appropriations have been made and funds raised by a number of agencies, like the Rockefeller and the Carnegie Foundations, to build libraries in Latin American countries that equal in their efficiency and perfection in service and equipment, any of the libraries in this country. Notable among these is the Benjamin Franklin Library in the City of Mexico, which for some years has rendered valuable service in paving the way to mutual understanding. La Biblioteca Nacional de Bogota

in Columbia is rendering a like service, and within this year similar libraries are under construction in Lima, Montevideo and Guadalajara in Mexico.

A second very laudable step in this direction is the establishment of schools of librarianship. The first to offer courses corresponding to those required by the American Library Association, was in Bogota, where students from the neighboring republics attended. The enrollment has been much higher than was expected and the training received will be of great value, in particular, to build up smaller libraries in the Caribbean district. Similar schools of librarianship have been started at Lima and Montevideo, and in the near future, no doubt, a great many more will be added to the number.

Even more beneficial than the erection of libraries in Latin America and the establishment of schools of librarianship is the arrangement made by the International Educational Association to bring a good number of well selected and highly gifted young men and women from the Latin American Republics to take special training, in most cases post graduate work, in librarianship. Personal contact with such representative young men and women, already engaged, and undoubtedly deeply in love with the mission they consider so exalted, is the very best way of promoting inter-American solidarity.

The practical conclusion must be that Catholic librarians endeavor to appreciate not only the high grade of the work that awaits them in Latin America but to endeavor to make it a sacred duty to render themselves worthy and efficient instruments in its fulfillment. If they are to help shape the pattern of the events to come, they must be eager to re-educate

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News and Notes

UNIT ACTIVITIES

The enthusiasm with which C.L.A. Units have resumed activities is reported in the accounts received of interesting meetings held in the various regions during the month of October. Plans for the proper observance of National Catholic Book Week, November 12-18, were outstanding at most of the meetings, and revealed the effective work being done by the Catholic Book Week chairmen.

The Greater Cincinnati Unit met October fourth for the first of their regular meetings, scheduled this year for the first Wednesday in October, December, February and May. In connection with Catholic Book Week, the Unit sponsored a Book Poll, to determine the best Catholic books written during the past ten years. One noteworthy result of the contest was the addition of many new Catholic titles to the Covington Public Library collection for the benefit of the Kentucky schools entered in the competition.

The Western New York Catholic Library Conference met October fourteenth at the Convent of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd in Buffalo. Reverend Henry S. Kawalec of the Little Flower Seminary was guest speaker; his topic, "Church Music." Mrs. Charles Hathorne discussed the value and administration of classroom libraries for the Elementary School Libraries section; the High School Section heard a paper on the "Vertical File" by Reverend Thomas Flanagan, O.M.I.

ANNUAL MEETING IN MIDWEST

The Midwest Unit held their ninth annual meeting on Saturday, October 28 at

Cathedral High School, Wichita, Kansas. The meeting was opened with the Dialog Mass at 8:30 a. m. in St. Mary's Cathedral. Most Reverend Christian H. Winkelmann celebrated the Mass and welcomed the delegates.

Reverend Colman J. Farrell, O.S.B., was chairman of the general business session held in the Cathedral Auditorium. The outstanding panel discussion centered round the theme for Catholic Book Week: "Read for a Better World." Chairman of the discussion was the Reverend Frederick J. Mann, C.S.S.R., priest adviser of the Catholic Action Bookshop. Participants were: Mr. Richard J. Hurley, Vice-President and President-elect of the Catholic Library Association, Washington, D. C.; Sister M. Christine, Sisters of Social Service, Kansas City, Missouri; Major James A. O'Gorman, Los Angeles, California, Area Chaplain, Air Service Command; Reverend John J. Walde, Oklahoma City; Right Reverend Monsignor William M. Farrell, V.G., Wichita; Reverend Thomas C. Glynn, Spiritual Director of the N.C.C.S. and U.S.O., Wichita; and Reverend Thomas W. Green, St. Patrick's Church, Wichita.

Following the luncheon served in the Cathedral cafeteria, round table meetings were conducted for the various sections. Chairmen: Elementary Schools, Reverend Gavan P. Monaghan, Edmund, Oklahoma; High Schools, Sister M. Edgar, S. L., St. Mary's High School, Colorado Springs; Colleges, Reverend Lawrence F. Spencer, O.S.B., St. Gregory's Abbey and College, Shawnee; Hospitals, Reverend

Frederick J. Mann, C.S.S.R., St. Joseph's Church, Wichita; General Readers, Mrs. Getto McDonald, member of the library board, Catholic Action Bookshop.

On Friday evening, a panel discussion similar to that of Saturday morning, had been held for the general public.

The Illinois Unit also met on October 28 at the Providence High School in Chicago. Over two hundred librarians, principals and teachers attended, making this a record meeting for the Illinois group. The Reverend Harry C. Koenig, Librarian of the Freehan Memorial Library at St. Mary of the Lake Seminary, was the general chairman.

High light of the day was the stimulating address of the Reverend David C. Fullmer, assistant superintendent of the archdiocesan school system. Father Fullmer said in part: "A student needs books as a mechanic needs tools. He cannot work without them. If students are to make the proper use of books in their secondary and collegiate work, if they are to develop within themselves a familiarity with and fondness for books, the library must become a reality in the elementary school. The regular and intelligent use of the library throughout the grades is an essential preparation for later years of more intensive and extensive work with books."

The business meeting followed the general session. The constitution was adopted, and Miss Marita Dwyer, librarian of Lucy Flower High School, was elected vice-chairman. The afternoon programs were prepared by Sister Mary Aurelius, B.V.M., Mundelein College, Reverend A. B. Lamond, O.S.A., St. Rita High School, and Sister M. Vianney, R.S.M., St. Xavier Academy.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

The Wisconsin Unit will meet on Saturday, November 18 in the Marquette University Law School.

The annual meeting of the Minnesota-Dakota Unit will be held at Cretin High School during the Thanksgiving recess, on Friday, November 24. The Reverend Louis Gales, Editor of the *Catholic Digest*, will be the principal speaker.

UNITED NATIONS EDUCATION KIT

The U. S. Office of Education and the United Nations Information Office have cooperated in the preparation of a United Nations Education Kit, made up of teaching materials and visual aids for use with high school or college classes; adult clubs and discussion groups.

Each kit contains a reprint of "building a United World," a study guide on the United Nations in war and peace, originally published in the September 20 edition of *Education for Victory*; 15 copies of "The United Nations Today and Tomorrow," 15 copies of "The United Nations—Peoples and Countries"; and large picture charts. The kit may be purchased for \$3.50 from the United Nations Information Office, 610 Fifth Avenue, New York 20, New York.

DR. MEYER VISITING UNITED STATES

Dr. Augusto Meyer, director of the National Book Institute of the Brazilian Ministry of Education, has been visiting municipal libraries in New York, Boston, and Philadelphia, and libraries of various colleges and universities. The purpose of his visit is to investigate technical library services in this country, with attention also to the conservation of documents and

books, the latter mission having been requested especially by the National Library of Brazil at Rio de Janeiro, which has valuable and irreplaceable colonial collections.

A.L.A. TO SALVAGE ARMY LIBRARIES

The American Library Association has proposed to the Surplus Property Administration and to Congress, a plan to salvage the library books in army camps and use them in starting rural public libraries. The proposal as explained by Carl Vitz, president of the Association, is "that the surplus books, articles of library equipment, and other library materials be transferred to the states and territories, for the use of people without libraries or with very limited library facilities".

THE SCARLET LILY TO BE FILMED

The David C. Selznick Film Company has announced the purchase of the movie rights for *The Scarlet Lily*, the novel based on the life of Mary Magdalen, which won the Bruce-Extension Prize Novel Contest recently.

The author, Father Edward F. Murphy, S.S.J., Dean of Philosophy and Religion at Xavier University, published his first novel at the age of fifteen and since that time has written several novels and plays.

AID TO WAR DEVASTATED LIBRARIES

The Council of National Library Association, representing both Canada and the United States, has established a Joint Committee for Books for Devastated and Other Libraries in War Areas for a concerted effort to plan aid for the war-damaged libraries.

The booklet called "Activity of Members of the Council of National Library Associations" can be purchased from the Council for twenty cents a copy.

MANOEL DE OLIVEIRA LIMA

(Concluded from page 46)
concert of American powers, he settled down in the nation's capital. He wanted to spend his declining years near his beloved books and teach at The Catholic University of America where he had been made professor of international law. Here, in 1928, death at length overtook him to the sorrow of his legion of friends and admirers in all parts of the world. He is buried in Mount Olivet Cemetery, under a plain stone slab that devoted friends sent from his native state. On it is inscribed a simple epitaph that is a testimonial in death of the man's fundamental modesty in life: "Aqui jaz um amigo dos livros," Here lies a friend of books.

IV

The greatest tribute to the fruitful life of Manoel de Oliveira Lima will remain the splendid library which he gave The Catholic University of America. Rich in books, manuscripts, and objects of art that deal with and illustrate the history and culture of the Iberian world, it will long serve as a center in this country for scholars and students interested in Ibero-America. To this library the Limas gave all their worldly belongings, and made the University the keeper of the diaries, miscellaneous papers, and private correspondence of the donors. A complete biography of Oliveira Lima is a debt which posterity will one day pay to his memory; and when that time comes, the pertinent material on a life filled to the brim with achievement, and, as some of Lima's friends

know, with disappointment, will be found at The Catholic University of America.

THE CATHOLIC LIBRARIAN AND INTER-AMERICAN RELATIONS

(Continued from page 53)

themselves so as to become the connecting link between the cultures of the nations.

The first step in that direction is to acknowledge that we Americans of the North, without any fault on our part and, perhaps, even without our being conscious of the fact, have been: 1) a bit supercilious towards Latin America, and have not believed it possible that it has very much to offer us out of its inheritance in Hispanic culture. 2) We have been too passive and remote and have not given ourselves the opportunity of entering wholeheartedly into active and stimulating participation in activities that are thoroughly human and that are common to both continents. 3) That we are too book-minded in spite of our training and extensive experience with the public. 4) Many of us preserve the traditional conviction that the librarian is exclusively the rigid guardian of the annals of former ages, and may not have made sufficient efforts to master the art of assimilating the contents of these annals and bringing it home to the multitudes we influence. 5) We are a bit too stereotyped in our culture, fully convinced that it is difficult, if not impossible, to improve on the culture we have inherited.

The Pan-American program for Inter-American relations is an international, inter-continental program of human relations. Human relations constitute the subject matter in which the librarian, and in particular the Catholic librarian, lives and moves and has his being.

MODERN LIGHTHOUSES OF CULTURE

(Concluded from page 42)

university, and special libraries in Latin-America will be enabled to make selections of books and periodicals which they need most, with one limitation that the books be in English and written by United States authors. In the case of periodicals those selected must be published in the United States. It has been estimated that by the end of 1943 more than one hundred thousand dollars worth of books and periodicals were distributed to Latin American libraries through this project. "Books for Latin-America" gives assistance also in the distribution of books and periodicals by individuals, organizations, or university presses destined for Latin America.

The Catholic Library Association can contribute much to the movement for closer cooperation with Latin American libraries, librarians, and scholars.

MILDRED CRISS, INTERPRETER

(Concluded from page 39)

—Reissue: Garden City, N. Y., Sun Dial, 1937. 313p. o.p. (Young moderns bookshelf). *Madeleine's court on an island in Paris*. New York, Dodd, Mead, 1938. 186p.

Malou, a little Swiss girl. Garden City, N. Y., Doubleday, Doran, 1929. 280p. o.p.

Martine and Michel, a story of the Jura Mountains. Garden City, N. Y., Doubleday, Doran, 1931. 289p. o.p.

—Reissue: Garden City, N. Y., Sun Dial, 1937. 289p. (Young moderns bookshelf).

Mary Stuart, young queen of Scots. New York, Dodd, Mead, 1939. 274p.

Pocahontas, young American princess. New York, Dodd, Mead, 1943. 286p.

The red caravan, the wandering adventures of Francesca. Garden City, N. Y., Doubleday, Doran, 1934. 274p. o.p.

—Reissue: Garden City, N. Y., Sun Dial, 1937. 274p. (Young moderns bookshelf).

Wind flower. Boston, R. G. Badger, 1922. 39p. o.p.

Book Reviews

American Catholic convert authors. A bio-bibliography. By Brother David, C.S.C. Introduction by John Moody. Detroit, Walter Romig & Co., 1944. 259p. \$2.75.

Several years ago there appeared a compilation entitled *Through hundred gates* which exemplified in brief autobiographical sketches the various approaches of converts toward Catholicism. This current volume gathers together a comprehensive record of the literary and scholarly productions of our American Catholic converts. It is an impressive record, not merely for the tremendous number of publications cited but, too, because of the varied characters of those productions. We learn that the author of *Abie's Irish Rose* (Anne Nichols) is a fellow traveler on the high road with investment banker John Moody, educator Herbert Cory, Negro author Elizabeth Adams, biographer and columnist Katherine Burton, "Campaigner for Christ" Goldstein, *Readers' Digest*'s roving editor William Hard, Ambassador Carlton Hayes, Bishop Duane Hunt, novelists Frances Keyes and Ethel Eliot, omniscivorous Theodore Maynard, military science author William Kernan, juvenile authoresses Hilda van Stockum and Catherine Beebe, and many others.

These and many other contemporaries number as their convert-predecessors labor leader John Mitchell, humorist Artemus Ward (C. F. Browne), controversialist Orestes Brownson, religious founders Mother Seton and Isaac Hecker, novelist Francis Crawford, Archbishop James Roosevelt Bayley, juvenile writer Joel Chandler Harris, the remarkable literary couple, Joyce and Aline Kilmer, librarian William Stetson Merrill, mystery-story writer Arthur Reeve (creator of Craig Kennedy), coach Knute Rockne, poet and priest John Bannister Tabb and at least forty or fifty more whose names may not be followed by as many book entries in library catalogues, but who deserve and receive rank and mention.

Among the curiosities which one may elicit from this marvelously interesting volume is the num-

ber of male nom de plumes adopted by our female authors. Thus, Beatrice Bradshaw Brown became "Michael Kent"; "John Oliver Hobbes" was Pearl Mary Teresa Craigie; "Stephen Morris Johnston" is really Sister Mary Francis Johnston, O.S.U., and (*Mirabile dictu!*) the Reverend Richard W. Alexander was the pseudonym of Sister Mary Antonio Gallagher, chosen "to compliment both Bishop Richard Phelan of Pittsburgh and the Reverend Alexander Doyle, C.S.P., of New York." (p. 83).

It is rather late in the review to cite the purpose, but it is necessary to indicate its scope and it cannot be done more concisely than in the words of Brother David:

The Bio-Bibliography proposes, first, to locate in a single work a comprehensive list of all American Catholic convert authors and their writings (books) since the beginnings of our history; second, to show at what phase of his career a given author has entered the Church; third, to furnish a means for the study of the influence made by his conversion upon an author's subsequent writings; fourth, to supply a tool by which a student may compare the quality and quantity of the writings of convert writers with those authors born into the Church; fifth, to show the movement of intellectuals toward the Church through the Chronological Lists; and sixth, to indicate, as far as has been possible, the church from which the greater number of convert writers have been drawn. (p. xii).

There are 260 convert authors represented. For each is included the full name, pseudonyms or variant names, if any, former religion, brief biographical data rarely exceeding one hundred words, authorities for the biographical data and the conversion, and a chronologically arranged list of works with name of original publisher. Appendices give a chronology of authors and of dates of conversion, a list of authors erroneously

considered converts, a bibliography of works consulted and a directory of publishers.

We commend the compiler for the completion of a worthy idea and the publisher for his courage in issuing a volume that, unfortunately, may not achieve the sale it deserves.

EUGENE P. WILLING
University of Scranton

Anuario bibliográfico Venezolano, 2942. Caracas, Biblioteca Nacional. (Caracas, Venezuela: Tipografía Americana, 1944. 227p. Paper.)

Not so many years ago it used to be quite common for reviewers of Latin American publications to remark that such and such a book was on the whole good, but that what it really needed was an index. Somehow the index was almost taken for granted as an American achievement, and we seemed to glory in it as a mark of intellectual maturity.

It is not, of course, for me to say whether or not Latin Americans, goaded or irked by our pointed observations, have at length decided to put an end to this sort of thing. The fact remains that an increasing number of books coming out of Latin America have been provided with the time-saving devices that scholars (and librarians) seem not willing to do without.

In the present instance, the *Anuario bibliográfico Venezolano*, quite apart from being the splendid work that it is, with complete lists of books, articles, and newspapers published in and out of Venezuela, and also works of all sorts printed on Venezuela abroad, is provided with such copious indices that even the most timid librarian will feel at home with it. As I intimated earlier, this is one of those fine publications that does honor to any bibliographer, and in particular to Dr. Enrique Planchart, the learned director of the National Library of Caracas, under whose direction the *Anuario* has been issued. The Argentineans regularly compile a list of books printed in their country—Argentina is, as everyone knows, the leading Latin American country in the number of books published each year—while the Brazilians, through the Instituto Nacional do Livro of Rio de Janeiro, occasionally do the same thing for the mass of material that comes forth from their presses. It is, however, worthy of notice that the Venezuelan volume is as good, if not better, than anything of its kind in the whole of Latin America.

If Dr. Planchart needs any encouragement for the project which he has so auspiciously begun, let him take heart from what we have said. We

quite sincerely hope that the *Anuarios* from Venezuela will keep coming.

MARCEL DA S. S. CARDOZO, PH.D.
The Catholic University of America

Guiding growth in Christian social living; a curriculum for the elementary school. v. 1 (primary grades). Commission on American Citizenship, Washington. Catholic University of America Press, 1944. 308p. \$4.

This basic curriculum for Catholic elementary schools (in which two and a half million children are educated), holds the promise by its progressive attitude of a "brave new world." Edited by Sister Mary Joan, O.P., and Sister Mary Nona, O.P., of the Commission under the supervision of the late Msgr. Johnson, Head of the Department of Education at Catholic University and Director of the Commission, it is both the official recommendation of "what to teach" and "how to do it," and an inspiring description of the subject content in our better schools. Christian principles have been correlated with the social problems so heavy upon today's and tomorrow's generation. The first volume is devoted to grades one to three, volume two deals with grades four to six, and volume three with grades seven and eight. In the last volume will be an activity centering around the school library.

School librarians should examine this curriculum carefully, as they must know what is happening throughout the school and how to adapt library resources for the resulting demands. The second section of the present volume, in which is described the content of the various elementary school subjects, will be of greatest importance, especially the booklists and references to both school and public library use. The booklists might well be a buying guide in organizing a "must" collection as the selection has been most carefully done. The same comment might be made of the bibliography of teaching aids at the end of section three. This last section also contains suggestions of audio-visual aids, three units and other worthwhile information on materials and procedures. The first section has its particular contribution in a survey of the child's Christian living, his relationship to God, church, country, fellowmen, nature and self. It reflects the outcomes of the activities in the school.

The twenty-seven full-page photographs show graphically the many activities described in the text and several show school or public library use. There are also four comprehensive charts of the means and goals listed in the text. The

illustrations, charts and text comprise a unified whole which is sure to effect the future development of Catholic elementary school education. Insofar as the greatest field of library progress is that of our elementary schools, it is recommended that everyone interested in the promoting of libraries, give this a most careful reading and see that others share its inspiration.

RICHARD J. HURLEY
Catholic University of America

The library in the community; papers presented before the Library Institute at the University of Chicago, August 23-28, 1943. Edited by Leon Carnovsky and Martin Lowell, eds. University of Chicago, 1944.

Eleven representatives from the fields of theoretic and applied sociology discuss community life in large, small and rural population groups and in special phases of those groups, i.e. education, defense, war information, labor, surveys and future development. Seven librarians interpret the role of the library in these fields and sub-fields, stressing the responsibility of the library for leadership in the three-part task of keeping people informed, stimulating their thinking and directing their discussion. The emphasis is largely, though not wholly, on adult education.

As might be guessed, some of the conclusions arrived at in the papers are more immediately applicable to national library procedures than are others. (Cf. the suggested role of the high school librarian in wartime.) Some of the conditions described (e.g. civilian defense) were more real when the papers were first presented than when they appeared in print a year later. Almost all are provocative and illuminating for the practicing librarian as an overview of community characteristics and of real and potential library approaches to identification of interests and consolidation of programs. It is doubtful, however, if the practicing librarian will find the papers as completely helpful in the solution of library problems as were earlier papers presented at previous Institutes.

HELEN L. BUTLER, PH.D.
Marywood College

Nas galerias da arte da história. By Fr. Heliodoro Pires. (Petrópolis, Brazil: Editóra Zozes Limitada, 1944. 150p. Paper.)

Catholic librarians who are at their wits end to know what to buy for the budding Latin American sections of their libraries will welcome this modest series of essays by one of the most

assiduous poligraphs among the Brazilian clergy. There is nothing pretentious, or terribly learned, in the monographs that Fr. Pires has here collected; but the reader will find in them a broad Catholic appeal and a warm, equally Catholic, human understanding.

There is a chapter on Ruysbroeck, "the admirable one"; another on the madonnas of the Renaissance; another on Brazilian church history; another on the religious art of Baía, the old colonial capital of Brazil; still another on liturgical hymns. Some of the things that Fr. Pires has said have been said before and, I suppose, said just as well. But the Catholic reader will look upon the book as another manifestation of the Catholic mind in South America. And if he is guilty of an almost pardonable naïveté in these matters, he will have it brought home to him that, after all, the Catholic spirit is pretty much the same everywhere. Indeed, in all the tremendous hullabaloo over Pan Americanism, few of us have ever stopped to consider how solid are the things of the spirit as a basis of understanding among the apparently so diverse peoples of the New World. This lesson is, I think, not the least profitable one that may be got from reading *Nas galerias da arte e da história*.

MANOEL DA S. S. CARDOZO, PH.D.
Catholic University of America

The aviation dictionary for boys and girls. Edited by Leslie E. Neville and illustrated by Gregorio Prestopino. McGraw-Hill Book Co., 192p. \$2.00.

The aviation dictionary for boys and girls is just what the title implies: a rather complete dictionary of regular aeronautical terms phrased in easy to understand language suitable for the youthful reader. Where it is appropriate, definitions are supplemented by attractive diagrams, many of which are action-sequence sketches to make some hard-to-understand aerial maneuver or mechanical operation understandable. Included with the definition of a term, the author frequently gives the origin of the term and cross references to other related terms. The book is quite up to date and includes definitions of such modern terms as, "howzitgo curve," and "little tin guy."

As might be expected in a simplified book of this nature intended for school children, some definitions are not quite correct technically speaking, however, this should not detract from the value of the book.

There are some valuable and interesting supplements at the end of the book on (a) military aircraft identification, (b) the construction and use of maps, and (c) the chronology of aeronautical progress.

This book should be a valuable addition to the young reader's library.

JOSEPH P. HARPER, PH.D.
University of Scranton

Melvil Dewey. By Fremont Rider. Chicago, American Library Association, 1944. 151p. \$2.75.

This is a "balanced" biography, interpreting the life of a great man, and showing how his lack of tact kept him from becoming greater. To librarians the name of Melvil Dewey is forever connected with one of the great classification systems. Yet we tend to think that this was Dewey's life work. Mr. Rider's book will soon dispel that opinion. Dewey's interests were manifold: as librarian of Columbia University, he inaugurated a library school giving instruction to women despite the ruling of the trustees; as secretary of the Board of Regents he promoted the general cause of education; he founded separate societies for spelling and metric reform; he began the Library Bureau under the name of Readers and Writers Economy Company; as editor of *Library Journal* and later of *Library Notes* the whole domain of librarianship was his pasture; to promote and combine recreation and culture he organized the Lake Placid Foundation. These projects represent only the broad outline marks in Mr. Dewey's life. Read the book for the details. It is a fairly written, not an overly eulogistic account. It should be an inspiration to old and new members of the profession.

E. P. WILLGING,
University of Scranton.

Library extension under WPA. By Edward Barrett Stanford. University of Chicago, 1944. (University of Chicago Studies in Library Science). planographed.

In the postwar period, librarians hope for federal aid to libraries, both indirectly as in the prewar relief programs, and directly in special subsidies to regional organizations. In planning for either or both of these types of aid, library extension administrators will find invaluable aid in this account of library participation in FERA, CWA, CWS, PWA, WPA and NYA. An overview is given of the ten-year relief program as this concerned libraries, with major emphasis on the 1935-42 period and detailed treatment given

to the Spring of 1941. Described are: the kinds of work and kinds of workers in WPA and NYA, the moneys received and expended, the library construction jobs carried out by PWA, the organization and administration of library programs, and the different patterns resulting when circumstances differed as they did in Minnesota and South Carolina.

The author's thesis is that the WPA pattern of federal library assistance and extension by demonstration was essentially sound, and that while there were weaknesses and inconsistencies due to the speed with which the program was initiated, nevertheless, there was much in it which might be retained in a new program. A 16-page bibliography lists public documents, books, pamphlets and periodical articles on the general topics of library extension and federal aid, as well as on the application of such programs to specific library fields. There is no index.

In the presence of so much valuable data, only the captious reader would complain of the author's persistent use of the present tense when speaking of WPA and NYA, although he several times alludes to their demise. The interval between collection of data and their publication would also account for the use of 1930 census figures. These are minor points in comparison with the great volume of useful information which the work makes available for the student of library organization and extension.

HELEN L. BUTLER, PH.D.
Marywood College

Looking at life through American literature. By Nellie Mae Lombard. Stanford University Press, 1944. 91p. \$1.50.

This list of reading in American Literature is designed to develop in the student reading habits by having him approach literature through his own problems and interest. The readings are classified according to a broad and stimulating variety of subjects and contain suggestions in both verse and prose. For each book there is a brief descriptive annotation. Works which would offer intermediate reading difficulty as well as those which would appeal more to the advanced reader are so marked. The compiler admits the inclusion of much that is not literature in the strict sense of the word. *Looking at life through American literature* is a convenient and well designed tool for those introducing young readers to the world of books.

ALOYSIUS J. MILLER, S.J.,
University of Scranton.

New Books

BOOK CLUB SELECTIONS

Catholic Book Club—September

RAYMOND, REV. M. *Three religious rebels. Forefathers of the Trappists.* Kenedy, 1944. 326p. \$2.75. 44-8993

The account of Saints Robert, Alberic and Stephen Harding whose work became the foundation of the Trappist rule of life, written in the same popular style enjoyed in *The family that overtook Christ*.

Catholic Book Club—October

KERNAN, THOMAS. *Now with the morning star.* Scribner's, 1944. 234p. \$2.50. 44-40186

A novel built around the concept that the seed of the regeneration of Europe lies hidden in the monasteries from whence it can spring to revivify the continent as it did once before in history. An excellent book for adult reading.

Leonard N. Wolf, Ph.D.

Biography

CASSIDY, REV. FRANK P., PH.D. *Molders of the medieval mind.* Herder, 1944. viii, 194p. \$2.00. 44-8018

An outline study of the Fathers of the Church. Its object is to point out the significance of the Church Fathers and their educational principles as molders of the medieval mind. Under each is given a brief life, the principal works and a short explanation of their teaching in so far as it contributed to later thought. Has a selected bibliography and index.

Charles Denecke, S.J.

GHÉON, HENRI. *Secrets of the saints.* Sheed and Ward, 1944. 406p. \$3.00.

A collection containing complete and unabridged *The Secret of the Cure d'Ars*, *The Secret of the Little Flower*, and *The Secret of Saint John Bosco*, together with G. K. Chesterton's essay on the Cure d'Ars.

HOLZNER, JOSEPH. *Paul of Tarsus.* Translated by Rev. Frederic C. Eckhoff. Herder, 1944. 502p.

The life-story of the great Paul: his conversion from persecutor to apostle of the Christian Church, his zeal and charity which found expression in the immortal Epistles, his direct and inspired utterances on the evils besetting propagation of the Faith during his time.

LEWIS, D. B. WYNDHAM. *Ronsard, his life and times.* Coward-McCann and Sheed and Ward, 1944. xi, 340p. \$3.50. 44-8460

Witty, provocative and virile as Chesterton's *Autobiography*, this study of the master-poet of the French Renaissance will delight any adult of literary tastes. Mr. Wyndham Lewis has found Ronsard a youth avid of experience, richly dowered with all the Valois court could supply, and finally philosophic in the leaving of it. The picture has a Thackerayan pageantry: the peasant maid Marie juxtaposed to Mary, Queen of Scots, with Catherine de Medici revealed as almost an anxious house-keeper of the realm. The whole is unobtrusively but thoroughly documented by way of bibliographical essay (one has to chuckle over Pater!). Moreover, the numberless quotations of the lyrics of the "Vendômois" are all furnished with English translations, some of them beautiful.

Sister Mary David, S.S.N.D.

MANDONNET, PIERRE, O.P. *St. Dominic and his work*, trans. Sister Mary Benedicta Larkin, O.P. St. Louis, Herder, 1944. xviii, 487p. \$5.00.

This translation of the well-known French life of St. Dominic is an exceptionally important addition to spiritual literature in English. Not only does it depict the life and labors of the Saint, his extraordinary effort and success in meeting the problems of his own time, and his pre-eminent success as an organizer, but traces also the primitive rule of the Order of Preachers from its roots in the Augustinian rule to the finished rule and shows the influence of the Dominican rule on later foundations. The book is, as Archbishop McNicholas points out in his Introduction, "a unique biographical creation as well as a monumental historical survey".

Charles Denecke, S.J.

MARKOWA, EUGENIA. *The glowing lily.* Bruce, 1944. 113p. \$1.25. 44-8304

Here is a brief, beautifully written life of Saint Hedwig, twelfth century Duchess of Silesia. She was a remarkable saint amid the pomp and intrigue of European court life. She was a chosen vessel of prayer and suffering, yet at the same time she was a model to Christian rulers.

The book is written in an imaginative, almost poetic style. It is not a complete biography, but is a succession of pictures of her life, usually portrayed in the present tense. Unfortunately, its beauty is occasionally marred by misprints. *Richard Neu, S.J.*

MC'AULIFFE, HAROLD J., S.J. *Father Tim*. Bruce, 1944. 162p. \$2.25.

The pastor of St. Patrick's parish in St. Louis devoted his whole life to betterment of living conditions for the poor and lowly. The founding of day nurseries, and homes for working-men and women, the peaceful settlement of labor disputes would be classed as social work. Father Tim, however, was not consciously engaged in the profession, he was animated by charity: love of God and fellowmen.

MURRETT, JOHN C., M.M. *Tar heel apostle*. Longmans, 1944. 260p. \$2.50. 44-7789

The book is very well written, and throughout is most interesting. It gives a deep insight into the spirit that animated Father Price, especially in his devotion to Our Lady of Lourdes, and is particularly valuable for the excerpts from his spiritual diary, and an appendix which contains some of his retreat notes. An important chapter in the history of the Catholic Church in the United States is here presented.

Richard Neu, S.J.

Fiction

GRANT, DOROTHY FREMONT. *Margaret Brent, adventurer*. Longmans, 1944. 293p. \$2.50. 44-8361

This is a well written and readable historical novel built around the role of the Calverts and Margaret Brent in the early development of Maryland.

Leonard N. Wolf, Ph.D.

History

MACMANUS, SEUMAS. *The story of the Irish race. A popular history of Ireland*. Devin-Adair, 1944. 749p. \$3.50.

The first edition of this book, privately printed, sold 25,000 copies. In this, the first regular trade edition, the material has been revised and brought up to date.

Juvenile

BONNER, MARY GRAHAM. *Couriers of the sky; the story of pigeons*. Knopf, 1944. 82p. \$1.50.

A concise, simple and interestingly written manual for those who wish to raise pigeons for fun or profit. The selection of the right kinds of birds, their housing, feeding and training are adequately described and illustrated by appropriate photographs. The history of pigeons, many amazing stories of their exploits, and other material is presented. The appended list of suggested pamphlets, books, magazines and clubs rounds out a handy little manual.

Richard J. Hurley

KELLY, ERIC. *From star to star; a story of Krakow in 1493*. Lippincott, 1944. 239p. \$2.00.

A Polish story by Eric Kelly is always an event. Here Krakow of his *Trumpeter* comes to life again in all of its medieval splendor as a great university center. Young Roman sacrifices a knightly career for that of a student, to solve the mystery of buried treasure and gain renown. A profile included of the great Copernicus. For all libraries.

Richard J. Hurley

MILHOUS, KATHERINE. *The first Christmas crib*. Scribner's, 1944. 47p. \$1.25. 44-8908

A story of St. Francis of Assisi and the inauguration of the Christmas crib custom in Greccio, Italy, in 1223. Colorfully illustrated by the author, this juvenile will appeal particularly to children from ten to fourteen.

E. P. Willging

WARE, LEON. *Crazy dog*. Illus. by Morgan Dennis. Whittlesey House, 1944. 67p. \$1.50.

This is the old story of a boy and his dog with a modern twist. Bill Pearson had been maneuvered by his classmates into a position where he had to prove Judge's ability; how the U. S. Army came to the rescue provides the climax to an appealing tale. For boys of the upper grades.

E. P. Willging

Philosophy

D'ARCY, MARTIN C., S.J. *Thomas Aquinas*. Newman Book Shop, 1944. ix, 292p. \$3.50.

Father D'Arcy's *Thomas Aquinas* first appeared in 1930; this reprint, with the permission of the Oxford Press, again makes available a book that has already won recognition. It is not an exhaustive study of the thought of St. Thomas, but a presentation of the fundamental principles of his philosophy. This book furnishes rewarding reading for those interested in acquiring a knowledge of the structure of the Thomistic system and a key to a more comprehensive study of St. Thomas.

Charles Denecke, S.J.

GLENN, PAUL J., PH.D., S.T.D. *An introduction to philosophy*. Herder, 1944. viii, 408p. \$3.00. 44-6182

This is the final volume of Father Glenn's series on philosophy. The same clarity and precision is found in this that readers have come to expect from this author. The *Introduction to philosophy* comprises a brief history of philosophy from its emergence through the nineteenth century, and an outline of seven basic questions. This compendium could well serve as the basis of a survey course, as well as for an introduction. Every school

library should have it on the shelves. Well indexed. No bibliography.

Charles Denecke, S.J.

Religion

Abridgment of the interior spirit of the Religious of the Visitation of Holy Mary. Revised translation of the French edition of 1914. Newman, 1943. 146p. \$1.25.

A reprint of the revised 1927 edition of the counsels of St. Francis de Sales to the Visitation Nuns, which aims to benefit those who, living outside the cloister, are striving for greater perfection.

BRENNEN, HENRY, O.S.B. *Seek and you shall find.* The Grail, St. Meinrad, Ind., 1944. 131p. \$1.00.

Consideration of the external distractions, interior dispositions and the characteristics of prayer, brought close to the average reader through simple and clear analogy.

DOHENY, WILLIAM J., C.S.C., J.U.D. *Canonical procedure in matrimonial cases.* Vol. II, Informal procedure. Bruce, 1944. xxxviii, 737p. \$8.00.

The first volume of Dr. Doheny's series on the canonical process of matrimonial trials treated the formal judicial procedure. In the present volume the author deals with the procedure for all cases exempted from the formal procedure norms and court formalities. This study of the informal procedure in matrimonial cases is thorough and complete in every detail including pertinent and important documents from the Holy See. His Excellency, The Most Reverend A. G. Cicognani, D.D., J.U.D., Archbishop of Laodicea and Apostolic Delegate to the United States, writes the Preface and recommends the work not only to students of Canon Law, but to all who are engaged in the care of souls.

Aloysius J. Miller, S.J.

FILAS, F. L., S.J. *The man nearest to Christ: nature and historic development of the devotion to St. Joseph.* Bruce, 1944. xix, 217p. \$2.50.

In this noteworthy appreciation of St. Joseph, Father Filas first collects what information can be gathered from the Gospels, the Fathers and theology. He then shows the obscurity in which St. Joseph remained until the time of the Council of Trent, and finally traces the rapid growth in the devotion to the Foster Father of Christ in succeeding centuries. The six most important papal documents pertaining to St. Joseph which have been issued since 1870 have been included. A combined chronology and bibliography of documents of the Holy See relating to St. Joseph since 1479, complete references, and a bibliography will be of special interest and value to those who desire to pursue the subject more deeply.

Vincent Lee, S.J.

KNOX, RONALD K. *The New Testament in English.* Sheed and Ward, 1944. 573p. \$3.00.

Ronald Knox has fulfilled the request of the late Cardinal Hinsley and the English Hierarchy by turning anew into English the Vulgate Latin New Testament. It is a thoroughly new translation with all the freshness and lucidity of Monsignor Knox's style. He has used only current modern English and clears Latin ambiguities by references to the best Greek manuscripts. Notable differences in readings are given in the footnotes. Each page conveniently carries in its heading the topics of the text on the page. Every Christian could vitalize his knowledge of the word of God by the perusal of this book.

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Charles McManus, S.J.

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